

RADM COLE REMARKS FOR SIGNING CEREMONY, POLLUTION PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

Good afternoon. I'm here representing the very large Department of Defense presence in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have 28 installations in Virginia from all three services, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the National Guard. Not only do we own a lot of real estate, but we are extensively involved in our local communities. Our military and civilian members are your neighbors, your civic league officers, and your kid's soccer coaches. The sense of ownership we feel with Virginia extends to partnering on an installation-level with our local communities. We work together to provide services such as law enforcement, family care, and emergency response and to plan for special events.

This pollution prevention partnership is another excellent partnership opportunity. By sharing information among our members, we can accelerate the spread of good ideas and proven technologies. Within DOD, we're eager to eliminate the no-brainer tasks we've given our young sailors, soldiers, and airmen over the years, such as wire-brushing a part to remove carbon buildup and old paint. If we can put that same part in a big dishwasher and clean it with soap and hot water, we can:

- Eliminate the use of hazardous materials;
- Reduce that soldier's exposure to toxic chemicals; and
- Give him more rewarding work to do.

At Virginia DOD installations, we have some dynamic people working on pollution prevention who have been recognized at state and national levels for their achievements. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency also have talented people who share our common vision – to integrate pollution prevention into day-to-day operations. This partnership provides a tremendous opportunity to build on our individual successes and further expand our symbiotic relationship with the Commonwealth. I welcome the opportunity to join the State of Virginia and the Environmental Protection Agency in formalizing this partnership today.

Now, let me turn the podium back over to Cheryl Barnett, my Environmental Director, who will provide some specifics on DOD pollution prevention in Virginia and on this historic partnership.